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HANDBOOK TO THE LABOR LAW OF THE UNITED STATES. By F. J. Stimson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. pp. xxii, 385.

Owing to economic conditions existing in the United States, the last few years have witnessed a remarkably rapid development of our labor law. While the importance of this branch of the law has led several writers to discuss certain of its phases, the need, nevertheless, of a thorough and comprehensive treatise on the general subject must have been felt by every one, lawyer or layman, who has had occasion to give the matter his attention. Mr. F. J. Stimson's Handbook to the Labor Law of the United States, partially at least, supplies this deficiency in our legal literature.

The author states that, while he hopes "the work is sufficiently full and accurate to serve as a legal text-book," yet his "chief object has been to make it a clear and trustworthy guide for laboring men and their several organizations throughout the United States." Judged by this standard, it may fairly be said that he has succeeded admirably, for the book presents just such facts as the wage-earner should be familiar with; and were such a volume in general use among the laboring men, it is believed that they would be induced to resort more often to peaceable and legal remedies for the redress of grievances than to the adoption of forcible and illegal methods. Unquestionably, the legal profession will also find Mr. Stimson's volume of much interest and assistance, although the absence of citations to any but leading cases will prevent its being of great practical value to lawyers.

The Handbook brings the subject down to the summer of 1895, and the author has contented himself, for the most part, with a bare statement of the law, as developed by statutes and court decisions. The first two chapters discuss the labor contract, and in the pages following there are considered such subjects as the political protection and legal privileges of laborers, profit sharing, co-operation, state regulation of industries, rights and liabilities of master and servant, trades unions, remedies by arbitration, etc. In view of recent Federal and State decisions, lawyers will probably find of greatest interest the chapters on strikes and boycotts, equity process and injunctions, and the anti-trust and interstate commerce laws.

H. D. H.

THE LAW OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS. By G. Hay, Jr. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1897. pp. xviii, 353.

This is one of those highly specialized text-books, covering only a small section of the law in a single State, which are becoming more and more necessary to the practitioner as a guide to the cases. The number of railway accident cases in every State is now enormous, and the number of points coming before the courts for decision, in the process of applying the common law to the complicated conditions of the modern railway business, as well as construing the numerous statutes passed on the subject, is so great that no text-book of wide scope could pretend to mention most of them. Mr. Hay's book covers the whole ground, and gives the substance of all the Massachusetts cases. He has arranged his matter systematically, and put his own general remarks in notes at the ends of the chapters, — a convenient habit.

R. G.